

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /094 W

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P R 230705Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1843

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING 214

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 3214

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, MY, CH

SUBJECT: MALAYSIA-CHINA RELATIIONS

REF: TAIPEI 2776

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH FAR LESS DISTURBING TO THEM THAN PROSPECTIVE PHILIPPINE RECOGNITION OF PRC, MALAYSIA'S LONG-ANTICIPATED ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PRC IS SEEN BY ROC OFFICIALS AS BAD OMEN. PUBLICLY, HOWEVER, ROC HAS REACTED CALMLY. ESTIMATES IN TAIPEI ARE THAT UNOFFICIAL TRADE, TRAVEL AND AIR LINKS WILL CONTINUE. CONTINUED GOM PRESENCE IN TAIPEI OR GROC PRESENCE IN KL IS QUESTIONABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. DESPITE INNER DOUBTS, ROC HAS REACTED CALMLY TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND PRC, A MOVE WHICH HAS BEEN ANTICIPATED FOR AT LEAST A COUPLE OF YEARS. SEVERAL EDITORIALS WHICH HAVE APPEARED THUS FAR HAVE WARNED MALAYSIA AND OTHER SEA NATIONS AGAINST CONTINUED PRC-SUPPORTED
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SUBVERSION, BUT ALL HAVE ALSO STRESSED NEED TO PRESERVE,

BY WHATEVER MEANS POSSIBLE, TRADE AND OTHER CONTACTS
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. MOFA EAST ASIA DIRECTOR CHOU TOLD US GOM INFORMED
ROC CONGEN THAT HE WILL HAVE ONE MONTH TO DEPART KL AFTER
ESTABLISHMENT OF MALAYSIA-PRC RELATIONS IS ANNOUNCED.
CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY AND ROC INFORMATION OFFICER HAVE ALSO
BEEN INFORMED THEY WILL HAVE TO LEAVE MALAYSIA. ROC WOULD
LIKE TO MAINTAIN SOME KIND OF PRESENCE IN KL, AND ROC CON-
GEN IS STILL DISCUSSING THIS WITH GOM BUT, AS INDICATED,
REFTEL, ROC OFFICIALS ARE NOT SANGUINE ABOUT POSSIBILITY.

4. MALAYSIAN CONSUL LOOI CHEOK-HUN, WHO IS ACCREDITED
TO THE TAIWAN PROVINCIAL GOVT. RATHER THAN TO THE GROC,
HAS TOLD US HE KNOWS HE WILL HAVE TO LEAVE TAIWAN, BUT
THAT GOM HAS NOT GIVEN HIM ANY INDICATION OF WHAT, IF ANY,
PRESENCE THEY MAY WISH TO RETAIN IN TAIWAN, OR WHAT ROC
PRESENCE IN KL THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO ALLOW. HE ASSUMES
THAT ATTITUDE OF PRC WOULD BE THE MAJOR FACTOR IN SUCH A
DECISION. LOOI SAID GOM DEFINITELY WANTS TO MAINTAIN
TRADE CONTACTS AND TRAVEL BETWEEN TAIWAN AND MALAYSIA,
AND HE BELIEVES THIS WILL INCLUDE CONTINUATION OF MAS
AND CAL SERVICE BETWEEN KL AND TAIPEI. MAS FLIES VIA
HONG KONG TO TAIPEI DAILY, AND FOUR OF THESE FLIGHTS
WEEKLY GO ON TO TOKYO. LOOI SAID THAT MAS PLANS TO EX-
TEND ITS TAIPEI FLIGHT TO TOKYO ON A DAILY BASIS AS OF
OCTOBER THIS YEAR (APPARENTLY ASSUMES GOJ AGREEMENT, WHICH
PERHAPS NOT CERTAIN). CAL FLIES TO SINGAPORE VIA KL TWICE
WEEKLY, RETURNING VIA THE SAME ROUTE. AS LOOI SEES IT,
CONTINUED MAS AND CAL SERVICE BETWEEN KL AND TAIPEI WOULD
BECOME AN ISSUE ONLY IF MAS WANTED TO FLY TO PRC, OR IF
THE PRC AIRLINE WANTED TO FLY TO KL -- BOTH OF WHICH HE
FEELS ARE UNLIKELY PROSPECTS.

5. GROC, HAVING ANTICIPATED MALAYSIAN MOVE FOR SOMETIME,
HAS BEEN SURPRISED ONLY BY GOM'S STIFFNESS IN ARRANGEMENTS
FOR UNOFFICIAL CONTACTS. BUT NOW, WITH PHILIPPINE SITUA-
TION ERODING, MALAYSIAN RECOGNITION IS SEEN AS OMEN OF
FUTURE DIFFICULTIES WITH ALL THE ASEAN STATES.

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